

**5 CLAIMS****WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a polynucleotide having a nucleotide sequence at least 95.0% identical to a sequence selected from the group consisting of:
  - 10 (a) a polynucleotide fragment of SEQ ID NO:1 or a polynucleotide fragment of the cDNA sequence included in ATCC Deposit No: PTA-3161, which is hybridizable to SEQ ID NO:1;
  - (b) a polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide fragment of SEQ ID NO:2 or a polypeptide fragment encoded by the cDNA sequence included in ATCC Deposit No: 15 PTA-3161, which is hybridizable to SEQ ID NO:1;
  - (c) a polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide domain of SEQ ID NO:2 or a polypeptide domain encoded by the cDNA sequence included in ATCC Deposit No: PTA-3161, which is hybridizable to SEQ ID NO:1;
  - (d) a polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide epitope of SEQ ID NO:2 or a 20 polypeptide epitope encoded by the cDNA sequence included in ATCC Deposit No: PTA-3161, which is hybridizable to SEQ ID NO:1;
  - (e) a polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2 or the cDNA sequence included in ATCC Deposit No: PTA-3161, which is hybridizable to SEQ ID NO:1, having potassium channel beta subunit activity;
  - 25 (f) a polynucleotide which is a variant of SEQ ID NO:1;
  - (g) a polynucleotide which is an allelic variant of SEQ ID NO:1;
  - (h) an isolated polynucleotide comprising nucleotides 124 to 1095 of SEQ ID NO:1, wherein said nucleotides encode a polypeptide corresponding to amino acids 2 to 325 of SEQ ID NO:2 minus the start codon;
  - 30 (i) an isolated polynucleotide comprising nucleotides 121 to 1095 of SEQ ID NO:1, wherein said nucleotides encode a polypeptide corresponding to amino acids 1 to 325 of SEQ ID NO:2 including the start codon;
  - (j) a polynucleotide which represents the complimentary sequence (antisense) of SEQ ID NO:1; and
  - 35 (k) a polynucleotide capable of hybridizing under stringent conditions to any one of the polynucleotides specified in (a)-(j), wherein said polynucleotide does not

5 hybridize under stringent conditions to a nucleic acid molecule having a nucleotide sequence of only A residues or of only T residues.

2. The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein the polynucleotide fragment comprises a nucleotide sequence encoding a human potassium channel beta subunit protein.

10 3. A recombinant vector comprising the isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1.

4. A recombinant host cell comprising the vector sequences of claim 3.

5. An isolated polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence at least 95.0% identical to a sequence selected from the group consisting of:

15 (a) a polypeptide fragment of SEQ ID NO:2 or the encoded sequence included in ATCC Deposit No: PTA-3161;

(b) a polypeptide fragment of SEQ ID NO:2 or the encoded sequence included in ATCC Deposit No: PTA-3161, having potassium channel beta subunit activity;

20 (c) a polypeptide domain of SEQ ID NO:2 or the encoded sequence included in ATCC Deposit No: PTA-3161;

(d) a polypeptide epitope of SEQ ID NO:2 or the encoded sequence included in ATCC Deposit No: PTA-3161;

(e) a full length protein of SEQ ID NO:2 or the encoded sequence included in ATCC Deposit No: PTA-3161;

25 (f) a variant of SEQ ID NO:2;

(g) an allelic variant of SEQ ID NO:2;

(h) a species homologue of SEQ ID NO:2;

30 (i) a polypeptide comprising amino acids 2 to 325 of SEQ ID NO:2, wherein said amino acids 2 to 325 comprise a polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2 minus the start methionine;

(j) a polypeptide comprising amino acids 1 to 325 of SEQ ID NO:2; and

(k) a polypeptide encoded by the cDNA contained in ATCC Deposit No. PTA-3161.

6. The isolated polypeptide of claim 5, wherein the full length protein comprises sequential amino acid deletions from either the C-terminus or the N-terminus.

- 5        7. An isolated antibody that binds specifically to the isolated polypeptide of claim 5.
8. A recombinant host cell that expresses the isolated polypeptide of claim 5.
- 10      9. A method of making an isolated polypeptide comprising:
  - (a) culturing the recombinant host cell of claim 8 under conditions such that said polypeptide is expressed; and
  - (b) recovering said polypeptide.
- 15      10. The polypeptide produced by claim 9.
11. A method for preventing, treating, or ameliorating a medical condition, comprising the step of administering to a mammalian subject a therapeutically effective amount of the polypeptide of claim 5 or the polynucleotide of claim 1.
- 20      12. A method of diagnosing a pathological condition or a susceptibility to a pathological condition in a subject comprising:
  - (a) determining the presence or absence of a mutation in the polynucleotide of claim 1; and
  - (b) diagnosing a pathological condition or a susceptibility to a pathological condition based on the presence or absence of said mutation.
- 25      13. A method of diagnosing a pathological condition or a susceptibility to a pathological condition in a subject comprising:
  - (a) determining the presence or amount of expression of the polypeptide of claim 5 in a biological sample; and
  - (b) diagnosing a pathological condition or a susceptibility to a pathological condition based on the presence or amount of expression of the polypeptide.
- 30      14. An isolated nucleic acid molecule consisting of a polynucleotide having a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:
  - (a) a polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2;
  - (b) an isolated polynucleotide consisting of nucleotides 124 to 1095 of SEQ ID NO:1, wherein said nucleotides encode a polypeptide corresponding to amino acids 2 to 325 of SEQ ID NO:2 minus the start codon;

5 (c) an isolated polynucleotide consisting of nucleotides 121 to 1095 of SEQ ID NO:1, wherein said nucleotides encode a polypeptide corresponding to amino acids 2 to 325 of SEQ ID NO:2 including the start codon;

(d) a polynucleotide encoding the K-betaM6 polypeptide encoded by the cDNA clone contained in ATCC Deposit No. PTA-3161; and

10 (e) a polynucleotide which represents the complimentary sequence (antisense) of SEQ ID NO:41.

15 15. The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 14, wherein the polynucleotide comprises a nucleotide sequence encoding a human potassium channel beta subunit protein.

16. 16. A recombinant vector comprising the isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 15.

17. 17. A recombinant host cell comprising the recombinant vector of claim 16.

18. 18. An isolated polypeptide consisting of an amino acid sequence selected 20 from the group consisting of:

(a) a polypeptide fragment of SEQ ID NO:2 having potassium channel beta subunit activity;

(b) a polypeptide domain of SEQ ID NO:2 having potassium channel beta subunit activity;

25 (c) a full length protein of SEQ ID NO:2;

(d) a polypeptide corresponding to amino acids 2 to 325 of SEQ ID NO:2, wherein said amino acids 2 to 325 comprise a polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2 minus the start methionine;

(e) a polypeptide corresponding to amino acids 1 to 325 of SEQ ID NO:2; and

30 (f) a polypeptide encoded by the cDNA contained in ATCC Deposit No. PTA-3161.

19. The method for preventing, treating, or ameliorating a medical condition of claim 11, wherein the medical condition is selected from the group consisting of a gastrointestinal disorder, a reproductive disorder, an immune disorder, 35 a neural disorder, a cardiovascular disorder, a pulmonary disorder, a disorder related to hyper potassium channel activity, an immune disorder related to aberrant NF-kB

- 5 activity, pineal gland associated disorders, migraine headaches, disorders associated  
with aberrant melatonin synthesis and or release, delayed sleep phase syndrome,  
aberrations in circadian cycle, mammary cancer tumorigenesis, disorders associated  
with low DNA repair capacities or low free-radical buffering capacity, sleep  
disorders, age related disorders associated with decreased melatonin secretion, and  
10 cancer.

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